

5/13/72

Dear Bill,

I don't know anyone who could have handled that difficult situation any better if, indeed, as well. A curt bow and a swirling cape!

From your point of view, I think you had a great show to which Stoner contributed no end. From mine he was a disaster, as he has been in real life. I wish I could figure the hold he has over the Ray's, who are not in the agreement with his beliefs generally accepted as fact. I know. James and Jerry held forth on this at some length.

From my point of view, and you can't know enough of the substance to understand this, the show was, if less of a success than it could have been, very worthwhile, for Frank did say a number of things the meaning of which was lost upon him. It can't be detected except by those who really know the subject but he really does not a thing other than polish the official mythology. I can pinpoint each source in what he presents as his own. Uncredited I recall Lomax, Huie, Blair (He told Carol Pepper when he first interviewed her that "Blair is my bible" and it is trash) and my own work, and I can even distinguish between state and federal official sources. He was fed, and I am happy with some of the regurgitation, for my quest is for truth. Thus I look forward to the tape you promised. Any speed except 15/16 will do, either reel or cassette. And for this, too, thanks.

I saw Jimmy on the way back. I also carried and gave him without comment a request for an interview by a reporter who has, in the past, treated him well. The offer included submission to both him and Fensterwald of what he wrote before submission to his editors. Jimmy turned it down. If he had not, his lawyer would have. He has come to understand that nothing he says can help him and anything he says may hurt him, the simple truth. There was no discrimination against you. My resentment was against Stoner, who as a lawyer knows how wrong it is to intrude into the case of another lawyer and persists in doing it, and Jerry, who arranges these things without consultation, knowing everyone's opposition, in the childish hope that one show or interview will break the case. Jimmy is under enough pressure without these being added. He has, for more than a year to my knowledge, been determined to go the way of the law, something not at any point true of the prosecution, which still withhold from it that to which the defense is entitled, including those alleged stipulations Frank published, which are NOT part of the record and were nullified before Jimmy made the final agreement to cop the plea. I know this from many sources, including the clerk of the court. I asked for the record and it was not included. We have a letter of confirmation somewhere. And this kind of dishonesty, especially when it is presented so persuasively and professionally, is what accounts for the confusion concerned people like you feel. How can a small group of uninfluential people, without the facilities of a Doubleday, catch up with all the lies? And in so sick a society, how can the truth ever reach enough of the people for society to function?

Anyway, sincere thanks. I'm sorry we could not get together because I had what you might have been able to use not related to Frank. I gave some of it to the Post-Dispatch, but with that reporter about to go on vacation, I don't know if it will be used. There is also, I think, a story in the legal situation of John Stoner could not have put him away more permanently if he had tried to. The incredible ^{decision} ~~decision~~ of the appeals court may become a new and effective device for further repression and destruction of legal rights. John's court-appointed lawyer, Hampe, 7 N. 7, told me he has prepared a 50-page petition for certiorari and has filed it with the U.S. Supreme Court. He says there is no legal precedent. If Hampe is not persuaded of John's innocence (as I am inclined to be), he is shocked by the legal realities.

The other expenses you agreed to return are \$8.95 for insurance and \$8.16 for mileage. Broke as I am, I appreciate it. (I don't know if you have every tried to live and work without income or subsidy, but I do not recommend it. With sincere respect and thanks,